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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZED CRIME
DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE ("OCDETF")

TWENTY-FOUR CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY
LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY IN BELMONT, NH-BASED OXYCODONE
DISTRIBUTION RING

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Laplante, June Stansbury, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Boston Field Office, Joseph Galasso, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service, and George Festa, the Director of the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (New England HIDTA), announced that 24 individuals from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Florida, and Nevada face federal conspiracy charges arising from a multi-agency investigation conducted under the auspices of the New England Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF").

A Criminal Complaint and arrest warrants issued on June 17, 2005, charges 24 individuals with **Conspiracy to distribute controlled substances (oxycodone)** in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, and **Conspiracy to commit money laundering** in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h). An affidavit submitted by DEA Special Agent Todd Prough in support of the complaint alleged that Randall NOE, of Belmont, NH, obtained hundreds of unlawfully obtained oxycodone tablets each week for several years, and distributed them to lower level oxycodone distributors in New England. The affidavit alleges that NOE utilized several methods of unlawfully obtaining the oxycodone, including organizing Boston, Massachusetts-to-West Palm Beach, Florida "shuttles" for oxycodone couriers who would periodically fly to Florida together, visit the same physician to obtain large oxycodone prescriptions, and then fill the prescriptions and turn the tablets over to NOE for distribution and resale to lower-level traffickers. NOE also utilized private parcel couriers to exchange large quantities of cash, in amounts ranging from \$4,000.00 to \$78,000.00, for 500-plus tablet quantities of oxycodone supplied by alleged co-conspirator Victor MENDES, of Margate, Florida. According to the affidavit, NOE and his co-conspirators expended vast sums of cash and laundered their allegedly ill-gotten funds by

gambling at Las Vegas casinos and at the former Lakes Region Greyhound Park, at which NOE is alleged to have engaged in drug transactions with an undercover DEA Task Force agent in 2005.

The arrests were the result of a two-year investigation conducted by the DEA, IRS, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, assisted by Trial Attorney Marty Woelfle of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section in Washington, D.C.

During the investigation, which included a court-authorized wiretap of two cell phones utilized by NOE to oversee the alleged conspiracy, DEA agents made undercover drug purchases from NOE, Mitchell KRASCO, Stacey MELLOR, and Joseph SILVA, and executed search warrants and civil seizure warrants in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Florida, seizing over 500 oxycodone tablets and thousands of dollars in cash. The Asset Forfeiture Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office has initiated forfeiture proceedings against NOE's residence, 31 Boulder Drive, Belmont, New Hampshire, and a bank account in NOE's name. DEA agents have seized vehicles and jewelry valued at over \$50,000.00.

The following individuals are charged in the Criminal Complaint, and face maximum sentences of 20 years imprisonment, as well as maximum fines of up to \$2,000,000.00.

- **RANDALL NOE**, 37, of Belmont, NH, was arrested by DEA agents in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 18, 2005. He was detained over the weekend, and appeared before the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada on June 20, 2005 which ordered him remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service to be transported to the U.S. District Court of the District of New Hampshire.
- **JAMES COSTELLO**, 30, of Medford, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was detained without bail pending indictment and trial. COSTELLO is alleged to have been the main New England distributor of oxycodone in the conspiracy.
- **DENNIS "Mike" KAMINSKI**, 33, of Concord and Belmont, NH was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was detained without bail pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have handled cash and oxycodone at NOE's behest.
- **STACEY MELLOR**, 30, of Belmont, NH, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. She appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial.
- **VICTOR MENDES**, 54, of Margate, FL, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida on June 21, 2005 and was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service to be transported to the U.S.

District Court for the District of NH. He is alleged to be one of the Florida-based suppliers of the New England-based distribution network.

- **LEONARD ANDERSON**, 66, of Opalocka, FL, has not yet been arrested. He is alleged to be one of the Florida-based suppliers of the New England-based distribution network.
- **DR. MIGUEL ARGUETA**, 41, of North Miami Beach, FL, has not yet been arrested. Dr. Argueta is alleged to have been one of the Florida-based suppliers to the New England-based distribution network.
- **KIRK BELOLI**, 35, of Taunton, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have assisted NOE with the laundering of drug proceeds through private parcel couriers, and to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **STEPHEN ASSANTE**, 34, of Cranston, RI, has not yet been arrested or arraigned in this case, and is currently incarcerated in Rhode Island on unrelated charges. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **KEITH BELOLI**, 35, of Taunton, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **JASON CALNAN**, 29, of Miami FL, has not yet been arrested or arraigned in this case. He is currently detained without bail in Florida awaiting trial on separate federal charges pending in the Southern District of Florida. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **ROCCO CAPUANO**, 33, of East Boston, MA, turned himself in at the U.S. Marshals Service for the District of NH on June 21, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **MICHAEL CUCCHIELLO**, 33, of Las Vegas, NV, was arrested by DEA agents in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 18, 2005. He was detained over the weekend, and appeared before the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada on June 20, 2005, which released him and ordered him to report to the U.S. District Court in Concord, NH. He is alleged to have assisted NOE with the laundering of drug proceeds through private parcel couriers.

- **MICHAEL J. GALLANT**, 31, of Everett, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **MITCHELL KRASCO**, 44, of Everett, MA was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was detained without bail pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England. He is alleged to have unlawfully sold quantities of oxycodone in undercover transactions arranged by DEA in Massachusetts during 2003.
- **JAMES LONG** (age and address unavailable), was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **STEPHEN LONG**, 43, of Lynn, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **HAROLD MAYO**, 48, of Everett, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **RITA NOE**, 75, of Everett, MA, turned herself in at the U.S. Marshals Service for the District of NH, on June 20, 2005. She appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. She is alleged to have been involved in the laundering of the proceeds of the New England-based distribution network.
- **CHRISTOPHER RAFFAELE**, 26, of East Boston, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.

- **JOSEPH SILVA**, 29, of Wakefield, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was detained without bail pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have sold oxycodone to an undercover DEA Task Force agent, and to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **MICHAEL SPINELLI**, 28, of Revere, MA, has not yet been arrested. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **DUSTIN J. TAYLOR**, 21, of Swampscott, MA, was arrested by DEA agents on June 18, 2005. He appeared in U.S. District Court for the District of NH on June 20, 2005, and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.
- **GERALD VALCOUR**, 59, of East Boston, MA, turned himself in at the U.S. Marshals Service for the District of NH on June 21, 2005 and was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending indictment and trial. He is alleged to have obtained oxycodone in Florida and provided it to Randall NOE and his associates for distribution in New England.

The investigation was conducted by DEA's Cross Border Initiative (CBI) Task Force, with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service and financial analysts from New England HIDTA's Investigative Support Center in Methuen, Massachusetts. The CBI Task Force is comprised of agents from the DEA and the FBI, officers from the Salem, NH Police Department, and officers in the following police departments in Massachusetts: Haverhill, Lowell, Wilmington, the Essex County Sheriffs Office, and the Massachusetts State Police. CBI was assisted by officers from the Belmont, NH Police Department and officers from the following Massachusetts Police Departments: Andover, Burlington, Concord, North Reading, North Woburn, Wakefield, Wellesley, and the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office.

The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDETF"), and Assistant U. S. Attorney Rob Rabuck of the Civil Division's Asset Forfeiture Section.

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